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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PTO-2038 (09-03)

Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal		Application Number 09/531,679-Conf. #6246
Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450		Filing Date March 20, 2000
		First Named Inventor Osamu Kodama
		Art Unit 3726
		Examiner Name D. Bryant
		Attorney Docket No. 09495/000L031-US0

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

ii. Other Response filed on May 2, 2003

b. Enclosed

i. Amendment/Reply iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) iv. Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. Other _____

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____

i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) 12/03/2003 SDENBOB1 00000039 09531679

ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 770.00 0P

iii. Other _____

b. Check in the amount of \$ 2,780.00 enclosed

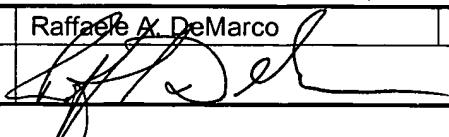
c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Raffaele A. DeMarco	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	54,061
Signature			Date
			December 1, 2003